

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 455

By Kisber

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Mr. Carl Perkins of Jackson.

WHEREAS, it was with tremendous sadness and a profound sense of loss that the members of this General Assembly and the citizens of our state learned of the death of one of the world's most talented musicians, Carl Perkins; and

WHEREAS, Carl Perkins was a distinguished citizen of the state of Tennessee who was intensely dedicated to his music, his community and his family; and

WHEREAS, he will be long remembered as one of the architects of rock and roll who composed some of the world's most famous and popular songs; and

WHEREAS, few individuals have had such a profound impact on the music world as Carl Perkins, whose rockabilly sound influenced all types of music, including rock, country, rhythm and blues and gospel; and

WHEREAS, Carl Perkins has been an inspiration and a hero to some of the most famous musicians this century, including the Beatles, the Rolling Stones and Eric Clapton; and

WHEREAS, born in Tiptonville to a poor sharecropping family, Carl Perkins first learned to play guitar on a homemade instrument made of a broomstick handle and a cigar box while listening to country legend Roy Acuff and;

WHEREAS, he began his meritorious musical career by playing honky-tonks in a band that he formed with his brothers, Jay and Clayton; and

WHEREAS, in 1954, Carl Perkins auditioned for Sun Studios in Memphis; an impressed Sam Phillips immediately signed Carl to the Sun Records label; and

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WHEREAS, by now, Carl Perkins was well on his way to international stardom and recorded such classic rockabilly songs as *Honey Don't*, *Dixie Fried* and *Boppin' the Blues*; and

WHEREAS, while recording *Matchbox* with fellow Sun artist Jerry Lee Lewis, two young artists named Elvis Presley and Johnny Cash stopped by the studio and the four super-talented musicians recorded the famous Million Dollar Quartet Sessions; and

WHEREAS, in 1956, Carl Perkins recorded Sun Records' first million dollar selling record, *Blue Suede Shoes*, undoubtedly his most famous song; and

WHEREAS, Carl Perkins' music career suffered a serious setback in the spring of 1956, when Carl and his brothers were involved in a tragic auto accident that seriously injured Carl and his brother Jay; and

WHEREAS, although personal tragedies impeded Carl Perkins' road to superstardom, he persevered to become one of the most influential and revered musicians of his generation; and

WHEREAS, in the 1960s and 1970s, Carl Perkins played guitar for Johnny Cash; and

WHEREAS, in the 1960's, Carl Perkins' music traveled overseas, where it had a profound impact on The Beatles, who covered many of Carl's songs, including *Honey Don't* and *Trying to Be My Baby*; and

WHEREAS, he continued to write quality songs, many of which became country hits, such as *Silver and Gold* for Dolly Parton, *When You're a Man* for George Strait, *Let Me Tell You About Love* for the Judds and his personal favorite, *Daddy Sang Bass*, performed by Johnny Cash; and

WHEREAS, during the past 15 years, Carl Perkins had enjoyed a resurgence of popularity; he won a Grammy for his outstanding performance on the "Class of 55" reunion album with Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Roy Orbison; and

WHEREAS, his 1996 album, "Go Cat Go!" was partially recorded at Sun Studios' sessions that included performances by musical legends such as Willie Nelson, Tom Petty, John Fogarty and the remaining members of the Beatles; and

WHEREAS, Carl Perkins was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and his song *Blue Suede Shoes* was specially recognized at the Grammy's Hall of Fame Awards; and

WHEREAS, throughout his purposeful life, Carl Perkins selflessly devoted his time and talents to helping those in need in his community; he founded the Carl Perkins Child Abuse Prevention Center in Jackson, an organization that has intervened on behalf of numerous children in the community; and

WHEREAS, the legacy Carl Perkins leaves behind will be remembered and treasured by the world for many years to come; and

WHEREAS, Carl Perkins enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Valda Crider Perkins; he was the proud parent of Carl Stanley Perkins, Gregory Jay Perkins, Stephen Allen Perkins and Debra Joye Perkins Swift; and

WHEREAS, men of his talent and stature do not often walk among us, and it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should pause in their deliberations to remember the exemplary life of this remarkable Tennessean; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Carl Perkins, remembering with admiration his exemplary character, his enormous talent and his many selfless contributions to the state of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Carl Perkins.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.